

House Armed Services Committee

DEMOCRATS

For immediate release: May 12, 2005

Ike Skelton, Ranking Member

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Contact:

Loren Dealy,
HASC Democratic Communications
(202) 226-6339

Cathy Travis,
Rep. Ortiz
(202)-225-7742

Readiness Subcommittee Addresses Defense Authorization Bill FY06

Washington D.C.—Today the House Armed Services Committee Subcommittee on Readiness marked up its portion of H.R.1815, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006.

Subcommittee Ranking Member, **Solomon Ortiz (TX)**, made the following statement:

“This legislation goes a long way toward addressing the needs of our forces. It provides much needed resources for our military depots, so we can keep the industrial lifeline that is so critical when our wartime equipment is wearing out at such a high rate.

“We have also authorized nearly \$108 billion for operation and maintenance (O&M) requirements. Unfortunately, this amount does not include funds for the ongoing operations in Iraq or for the Global War on Terrorism. I am disappointed that the Department plans to come back to us again with a request for those funds in a future supplemental instead of budgeting for these costs now.

“This piecemeal method of funding means that, once again, the military services will be forced to make difficult choices when providing funds to meet the high demands of ongoing operations in multiple theaters.

“Although this bill does not address issues related to the pending release of the base closure list, I remain very concerned about the idea to close bases that may be needed in the long run because of the uncertain nature of current conflicts and the global war on terror.

“The committee must take a responsible and measured approach to these issues when it completes consideration of the defense bill next week.”

Information is not officially included in the final version of H.R.1815 until passed by the full House Armed Services Committee on May 18th.

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